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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 798

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor University of Tennessee Lady Vols Coach Pat Head Summitt on being named the Naismith College Basketball Women's Coach of the 20th Century, and for her induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, throughout the storied history of Women's Intercollegiate Athletics, no school has epitomized success more than the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers basketball program, led by the venerable Coach Pat Summitt; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt's dominance of women's basketball is best illustrated by her recent selection by the Atlanta Tipoff Club as its Naismith College Basketball Women's Coach of the 20th Century, along with her upcoming induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame on October 13, 2000; and

WHEREAS, during her extraordinary coaching career at the helm of the Lady Vols, Pat Summitt has coached Tennessee to six NCAA national championships and amassed an enviable career record of 728-150, including an NCAA tournament record for most wins at 69-13, standing alone among her peers as the preeminent women's basketball coach in America; and

WHEREAS, after twenty-six seasons at the University of Tennessee as a proven winner, champion, master motivator and role model, Coach Summitt trails only UCLA's legendary coach John Wooden for the most NCAA titles; she has won six national titles during her illustrious tenure at UT, including the NCAA's first back-to-back-to-back women's titles in 1996, 1997 and 1998, to surpass Kentucky's Adolph Rupp in championship victories; and

WHEREAS, basketball purists throughout the country have proclaimed Coach Summitt's 1997-98 team as the best collegiate women's basketball squad of all time; the Lady Vols dominated their opponents by an average of more than 30 points per contest en route to a 39-0 mark, giving UT the most wins and best record in NCAA men's or women's basketball history; and

WHEREAS, to the University of Tennessee Pat Summitt is a goodwill ambassador, taking her Lady Vols teams to play basketball in more than 40 states and five foreign countries; to her players she is a mentor and friend who motivates them to believe in themselves and the Lady Vols system each time they take to the court to do battle; and

WHEREAS, every Lady Vol player who has completed her eligibility at Tennessee has received her degree or is in the process of completing her requirements for graduation. She instills a pattern of success in her players and constantly challenges them to reach their potential as a student and an athlete; and

WHEREAS, no other basketball coach in the country, male or female, has enjoyed the success of Coach Summitt. As a player, she won an Olympic silver medal in 1976; as an international coach she brought home the first USA women's hoops gold medal in Olympic competition in 1984, this in addition to her six NCAA Championships in 1987, 1989, 1991, 1996, 1997 and 1998; and

WHEREAS, in 1990 Pat Summitt was the first female to receive the prestigious John Bunn Award, given by the Basketball Hall of Fame, she was also enshrined that year in the Women's Sports Foundation Hall of Fame in New York City; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, 1997 and 1998, Coach Summitt was named the Coach of the Year by the Touchdown Club of Columbus, Ohio, and also received designation as the Women's Basketball Coach of the Year at the 28th and 32nd Victor Awards, benefiting the City of Hope; and

WHEREAS, Pat was inducted into the National Association for Sport and Physical Education's Hall of Fame in 1996 and, in 1997, she received the Casey Award, presented annually by the Kansas City Sports Commission, and the Governor Ned McWherter Award of Excellence; and

WHEREAS, Pat Summitt begins the 2000-2001 season as the second-winningest active coach in the NCAA with 728 victories. She is the youngest coach in the country to reach 300 victories, at age 34; the youngest to reach 400 victories at 37 years of age; the youngest coach to win 500 games at age 41; and the youngest to reach the 600-win plateau at 44 years of age; and

WHEREAS, she has led the Lady Vols to the Final Four in 16 of the last 24 years, with six of her last 14 teams winning NCAA titles, and has compiled 24 consecutive 20 or more win seasons; and

WHEREAS, Summitt has produced 10 U.S. basketball Olympians, 16 Kodak All-Americans receiving 26 citations, over 40 international performers, and 20 professional players representing the ABL, WNBA or overseas teams; and

WHEREAS, a celebrated figure in women's athletics, Pat is also extremely active in community affairs; she was appropriately honored at a White House luncheon given by First Lady Hillary Clinton, recognizing the "25 Most Influential Working Mothers" as selected by *Working Mother* magazine; and

WHEREAS, her countless honors and accolades aside, Pat is most appreciative of the love and support she shares with her husband, R.B. Summitt; their son, Tyler; her parents,

Richard and Hazel Head; her sister, Linda, and her three brothers, including our own esteemed colleague, Representative Tommy Head; and

WHEREAS, this assembled group of state legislators is especially proud to pause in its deliberations to recognize this esteemed Tennessean for her extraordinary accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor University of Tennessee Lady Vols Coach Pat Head Summitt on being named the Naismith Women's College Basketball Coach of the 20th Century, and on her election to the Basketball Hall of Fame, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success both on and off the hardwood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Coach Summitt with this final clause omitted from such copy.